

Phryme.

MAGAZINE

**BEYOND TINDER &
WHY NETFLIX DATES
ARE BORING!**

**"IF WE KEEP THE MINDSET THAT
ARUBA HAS NO ENGINEERING
OPPORTUNITIES, THAT WILL
NEVER CHANGE!"**

- JILIAN ODUER

WITH THE PLAN TO TURN HIS
HOBBY INTO A BUSINESS:
STEVEN DE CUBA

The
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DANIEL, MARIFER & JUAN PABLO
sibling dynamic.

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"Exclusively on expatriate students!"

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— "Exclusively on expatriate students." —



Cover by Zoe Arendsz & José E. Kock.

PHRYME STAFF

Chief Editor

Zoe Arendsz

Executive Editor

Jose E. Kock and Lorenzo J. Dirks

Writer & Photographer

Aishya Sichtman

Photographer

Shandrick de Cuba

Writer

Stephany Ridderstap

Journalist

Imilaine Matos

Journalist

Kenna Hernandez

Content Creator

Jair Frank

Writer

Maya Lioe-A-Tjam

Journalist

Tiffanie Oduber

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The
AGUIRRE BROCA
sibling dynamic.





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Delighted *in* **DUBLIN.**

THE STUDENT CITY

As 2019 opens, we find ourselves moving up and moving north into a small country with a small capital named Dublin.

Dublin is not only the capital but also the largest city in Ireland. It's located on the e East Coast of the country in the province of Leinster. On the South-side, the country is bordered by mountains. Dublin has a population of approximately 1.173 million inhabitants in the urban area. The city is home to four of Ireland's top-ranked universities such as Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin, ranked 88th and 168th, respectively.

If you are looking for a country/city to do your exchange semester or full-time study in, a country that about 60 thousand other international students also call home? Then, you have chosen the right place!



What is there to do in Dublin?

Even though Dublin is a relatively small city and capital, there is so much to see and do to keep you occupied for the remainder of your time there.



YOU CAN PARTY WITH THE IRISH AT TEMPLE BAR:

Temple bar is probably one of the most recognizable bars in Dublin, this is mainly because of its famous red exterior. The history of the bar dates back to as early as the 1300s. The bar is located in the heart of the city and has a big role in Dublin's nightlife, visited by people from all over the world, especially young tourists and surprisingly locals as well all of whom just want to grab a pint (or two or three).



VISIT THE GUINNESS BREWERY:

Coming in first, the Guinness at St. James' Gate Brewery is the most popular tourist attraction in all of Ireland. A ticket of entry to the brewery is approximately 20 Euros but will take you on a tour through seven floors of the brewing history and processes of what it takes to make the perfect stout beer, at the end of the tour, on the 7th floor you will receive a pint of Guinness and beautiful 360 degrees view of the Dublin skyline.

WALK OVER THE HA'PENNY BRIDGE:

Originally named Ha'penny bridge is known as the first pedestrian bridge over the Liffey river. The name originated from the price the pedestrians had to pay (halfpenny) to cross the bridge back in 1816 when the built.

READ SOME BOOKS AT THE TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY:

For all the book lovers out there, Dublin is certainly the place for you to kick back, relax and read a book. More bibliophiles would dream of doing this at the Trinity College Library. The library is the largest library in Ireland, home to famous books and famous for its section known as 'The Long Room', resembling the Jedi Archives from Star Wars. However, the main library is only open to staff and attendees of the university, there is still a part of the Old Library open for visitors.



ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN

For those who enjoy nature and relaxation a bit more, St. Stephen's Green is a park filled with grass, variety of plants, trees, and flowers with some beautiful ponds with swans and ducks swimming around. Besides that, there are many monuments all around the park for you to see along the many paths to walk in the park.

Fun facts about Dublin:

- Dublin's famous Trinity College boasts many celebrated graduates—including Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift, and Bram Stoker (who wrote Dracula).
- Dublin is an Old Irish Gaelic phrase that translates to Black Pool.
- There are 10-million pints of Guinness produced daily in Dublin.
- The City of Dublin contains 666 licensed pubs.
- Dublin has the youngest population in all of Europe. Approximately 50-percent of the population is less than 25-years of age.

All in all, Dublin is a small but quaint little city and capital of Ireland, but, it is definitely filled with enough attractions and things to do whether you're there on a short holiday, living there or studying at its many universities.

AN INTERVIEW WITH **JILLIAN ODUBER:** THE GIRL WHO HAS **SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS.**

Meet Jillian Oduber, a 21-year-old student who is in her third-year of the BSc Aerospace Engineering at TU Delft. She preferred TU Delft because it is the only college in the Netherlands to offer that program. In fact, before moving to the Netherlands, she was determined to apply to TU Delft since she was in VWO4. This is because it is the top technical university in the country.

"I've always had a thing for Math and Physics, so that's where the interest in a technical study came from. After researching all the studies offered in Delft, aerospace seemed like the best fit for me!"

Her reason for choosing this program is because it is actually quite broad. According to Jillian, her program combines multiple disciplines and applies it to the aerospace field. The program also gives the students loads of opportunities in every sector. Yet, it also applies to the knowledge of the topics of aviation and spaceflight, which is what she is most interested in.

"To me that 'interest' is vital to keep me inspired to keep studying!"

Living in a city dominated by men doesn't necessarily mean it is a bad thing. Jillian explains how due to the lack of women, they tend to stick together and consequently in her case, this means having more girlfriends in Delft. Additionally, as she is a female following such technical program, she tends to receive reactions from people thinking it's unusual and that Aruba might not have much to offer in this particular field. However, Jillian disagrees. In her opinion:

"If we keep the mindset that Aruba has no engineering opportunities, then that will never change! So, who else would it take to bring those opportunities to Aruba, other than Aruban engineers?"



She agrees those are big steps for Aruba's engineering and technology sector but it has to start someday and somewhere.

"I think that the start lies in broadening our mindset, so I refuse to rule out the option of coming back to Aruba."

Her plans for the future are not set in stone but right now, she is focused on completing her bachelor's and master's degree. While at the same time, doing more internship to start to gain the work experience that she needs. Gaining experience abroad is something she definitely is planning on doing and with that knowledge apply it in Aruba to help it advance the island, which in reality, would be a great achievement.

A takeaway on Jillian's behalf would be to not only focus on studying, while abroad. She considers it important to do some extra-curricular activities that give you the chance to gain skills that aren't associated with your educational program. She highlights the importance of having something productive, yet fun to dedicate yourself to.

She, herself, is in her second board year at ABC Compas; a student association in Delft for students from Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao. She has acquired skills that come from having certain responsibilities and knowledge on how to function on a board in a team of peers. Another advantage of doing something aside from school is meeting new people and of course, in her case, being around people that remind her of home. She says:

"However, if you have the chance to join any board, committee or project, do it and you won't regret it!"

All in all, she encourages those who want to study, whether in the Netherlands or anywhere abroad, to pursue such an opportunity.

"It's that spark that will keep you going because no matter what, it will be difficult."



What matters is your content with the study program that you have chosen. So particularly for first-year students, don't forget that you're not only studying but you're also adapting to a whole new life in another country, which is a pretty big achievement on its own. At the same time, remember that you are responsible for yourself, so don't take that too lightly. Everything you want to achieve is completely in your hands, so use your time and resources as good as you can!





MONEY HACKS.#2

BY: DOS PLACA

Odds are you're not one of those young 'Social Media Influencers' who get paid big bucks to promote products on their Instagram (yet). You're probably just barely getting by each month on a mix of Student Loans and that occasional Mom & Dad money. #studentlife right?

What if we told you that there are actually ways to save and earn money, without having to give up your social life and Netflix subscription. To help you out, we collected a few tried and tested student money hacks that'll help you save and earn money each month!



HACK #6: CHEAPER TRAVEL TICKETS

Traveling has become so cheap nowadays that your airfare could cost less than a new pair of shoes. However, finding the best deal on a flight is still somewhat of a mystery. There are a bunch of theories on how to get the cheapest tickets, which includes taking indirect flights to your destination. But in 2019, the only real way to stay ahead of the game is to track your airfare. Apps like Hopper or Skyscanner allow you to track airfares up to almost a year in advance!

HACK #7: MEAT FREE DAYS

Don't worry, we're not advocating the whole 'vegan' lifestyle as a solution to all of your problems. What we are doing though, is educating you about the fact that meat is expensive. Next time you go shopping, compare the price of meat to the price of a comparable amount of plant based alternatives such as lentils, tofu or tempeh! Going plant based for one or two days a week will not only help you save more money, but it will also reduce your carbon footprint and potentially improve your health as well!

HACK #8: ATM WITHDRAWALS

If you're studying abroad, you might still be receiving money on your 'old' foreign bank account. To avoid getting saddled with international transfer fees, see if it's cheaper to withdraw your money from a local ATM instead of conducting wire transfers. Simply withdraw the money on your foreign card at an ATM in the country where you reside, and then deposit it into your 'new' bank account. This could potentially save you (and your family) a lot of money!



HACK #9: STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Being a student means receiving discounts everywhere! Google it or just ask and you'll be surprised by the amount of companies offering some type of student discount program. So before you make your next big purchase, see if you can get away with paying just a little bit less! Furthermore, you can also purchase a student discount card like the 'Knaek' in the Netherlands. This card, along with a valid student ID, can get you great discounts across the entire country!

HACK #10: SUBSIDIES

If you're lucky enough to study in a country such as the Netherlands, you might be able to receive government subsidies to cover some of the costs of your rent and health insurance. Your eligibility for these subsidies will depend on your living situation and income, but it is definitely worth looking into. Saving money on fixed costs like your rent or health insurance can open your budget and allow you to try out fun new activities.

'For more personal finance tips, visit www.dosplaca.com'



**MEHORA BO
FINANSAS PERSONAL**

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SMASH!

Did you guys **hear** that?

////////////////////

That was this sound of a glass ceiling breaking. Like so many clever men before him, Edwin Gomez made an excellent life choice and decided to better himself with higher education at the University of Aruba. However, unlike the vast majority of other young men, Edwin has decided to get his degree in social work.

Edwin always knew he wanted to work with little kids but one year at IPA taught him that teaching wasn't really his thing. The day he attended the open house at UA, all he knew for sure was that he wanted to do something meaningful with his life. That was when he met Clementia Eugene, a lecturer from the Faculty of Social Work. Once he realized what being a social worker means to the community - his path forward was clear.

Social work has historically been a female-dominated profession. However, in these more enlightened times, businesses and institutions realize that gender diversity in the



workplace is incredibly important. In his role as a social worker, Edwin will have a different understanding of situations than his female counterparts because of his personal experiences. He'll be able to identify better with boys - because he was one.

Edwin's professors find his point of view invaluable in their classes and hope that more males will check out the social work program at the University of Aruba. As for Edwin, he's excited to graduate at the end of the year and begin his career helping at-risk children on the island - but for now? Well.. let's just say that being the only gentleman in a class full of ladies isn't terrible at all.

Discover the possibilities
at our information session!

#globalopportunities

April 6, 2019
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

OPEN House

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#UAchieve

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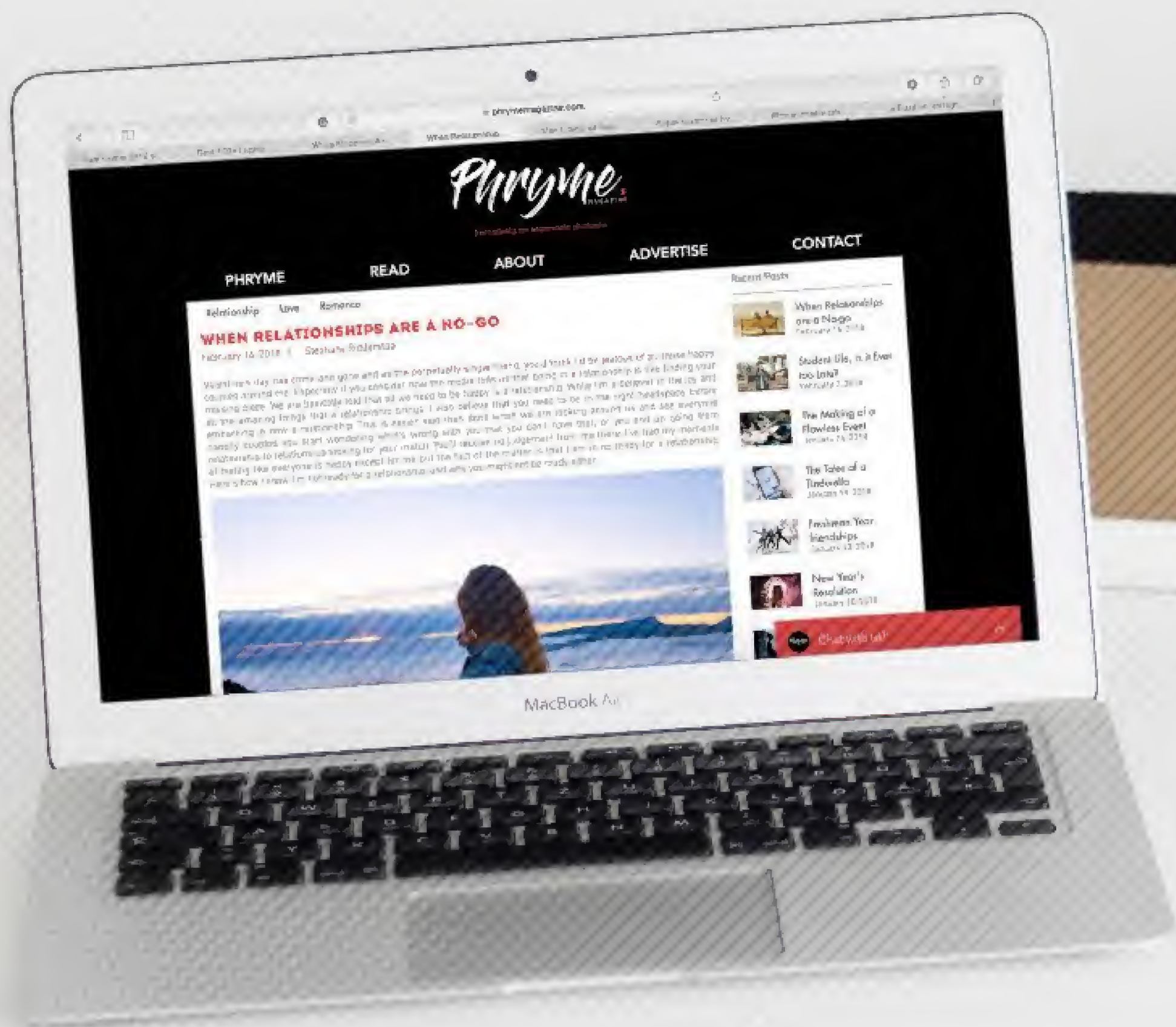
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fun. interesting
+ juicy

BLOGS ON:
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Why NETFLIX DATES SUCK.

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In case you aren't familiar with what a Netflix date is, it's also commonly referred to as 'Netflix and chill'. This term has several meanings. You either spend hours scrolling through Netflix and then actually watch a movie or you scroll, start something and then end up hooking up. It depends on what mood you're in. But, Netflix dates suck for several reasons.

People often decide to have a Netflix date for the convenience of being home; not having to really get dressed up, not having to spend too much money going out. And, for the one whose home you're at it's their comfort zone - so that can help calm the nerves when dating. It's also an easy date to fit into anyone's busy schedule. Also, why not? You get to have the best of both worlds - someone to cuddle with and someone to watch your favorite movie with, which often leads to a hookup.



While many people like to watch Netflix, and many people enjoy chilling, it does not mean that 'Netflix and chill' is the right way to go about dating. See, it quickly becomes a pattern in a relationship of, *"well I don't feel like going out let's just stay in"*. Eventually, you start to stop going out on dates altogether and the romance, somehow, gets lost in the routine - nobody wants that.

It's easy to see why 'Netflix and chill' is so popular. After all, it's low stakes and convenient. But, if you're looking for a commitment, this is probably not where you will find it. Dating is hard and, the 'Netflix and chill' mentality has made it okay to put less effort and still get a hookup

without any sort of commitment. It's taken dating into an overly casual approach where it has become fine to forgo romance and make the other feel special. It has also made it easier to hook up and move on without any expectation of more and that sucks.

While it's nice to be comfortable by staying at home, this can lead to you 'dating' someone who doesn't like leaving the house and, calling you their boyfriend or girlfriend. And that's fine if you're into that kind of stuff. But, if you want more than just casual hookups, it might be time to explore other romantic options that make you happy. 'Netflix and chill' will still be there if you decide that's more your thing.



A STUDENT? A BUSINESS MAN? WHY NOT BOTH?

AN INTERVIEW WITH YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER, **STEVEN DE CUBA.**

Steven de Cuba is a student of International Business Studies in The Hague. At the age of 21, he already runs his own business. His aspiration is photography. In fact, when he was only 12 years old, he took over his father's old camera and it felt like love at first sight. He eventually decided to pursue his hobby in photography and later turned it into a business, while specializing in lifestyle and wedding photography.

Moving to the Netherlands was a huge step that he took in the summer of 2016. This is also the year he decided to start his business. The combination of going to school and working is definitely not an easy task, especially when someone is starting from nothing in a foreign country. Regardless of that, he still felt compelled to follow his plans. The journey of developing himself excites him. In fact, his job is so diverse that he is constantly busy with a variety of things. From taking photos to having to edit each one separately.

He further has his media platform to take care of. Being a business student benefits him as he can apply what he's learning immediately into his business. Having a study that links back to his business has helped quite a lot. Learning about managing an international business is indeed what he needs. He uses his creativity when managing clients and networking with other vendors in the business. He says: *"I knew for a fact that I didn't want to be a starving artist. So, I had to come up with a plan to turn my hobby into a business, and that's exactly what I'm doing."*

However, to be able to juggle both school and his business, he continuously has to follow a strict plan which he says is not his strong suit. With that being said, he still does take an hour a week to plan. He breaks down what he has to achieve by the end of that week and plans it thoroughly. Sticking to deadlines and tasks is what got him so far and keeps him going.

"I still like doing spontaneous activities, I'm not going to lie."

Yet, the question remains, will this be it for Steven de Cuba? He's not sure whether he will still want to be taking pictures at weddings by the time he's 50. Although he can't foresee the future, he does have more than enough time to plan. He also knows that he is privileged to have found his passion at such an early stage in his life.

His short-term goal is to one day become one of the world's leading wedding photographers. While he is aware that his social life is also an important, Steven talks about how both his school and his business affect his social life positively.

As a matter of fact, he is always in contact with people; whether that is a client, a vendor or just a couple of friends. Being social is always part of his daily routine. Of course, he does not have the freedom that the typical university student might have, but that's the price he's willing to pay for running his business.



“I KNEW FOR A FACT THAT I DIDN’T WANT TO BE A STARVING ARTIST. SO, I HAD TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO TURN MY HOBBY INTO A BUSINESS, AND THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT I’M DOING.”

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What will follow for Steven? He was persistent that he dreams BIG.

“I dream BIG, (Yes, capital letters are necessary).”

The short-term plan is to take his photography business to a level where it will be recognized across the world and, potentially turn it into his full-time job by the summer of 2020. Eventually, he would also like to specialize in destination wedding photography so that he can do two of his favorite things: Photograph happy couples and travel around the world.



His advice to those who are shuffling between school and their business is as follows:

“It’s all about having the right mindset. I believe that everyone can start a business, but in order to achieve what you want, you need to start with the right mindset.”

Once you know exactly what you want and why you want it, there’s nothing that can stop you from achieving it.



Secondly, yes, you guessed it: Proper planning is of great importance. As a student, Steven also likes to go out, have a drink with his friends and travel, once in a while. However, in order to do that, it is vital to prioritize your daily activities. His goal was and will always be to build a business around his life and not a life around his business, and he believes planning helps him achieve just that. He’s busy making someone of himself and so far, he has been doing a spectacular job.





The AGUIRRE BROCA

COVER FEATURE

sibling dynamic.

Some people wish they had more siblings, others wished they had none. For Daniel, Marifer and Juan Pablo, it's a constant battle of which they'd prefer. But one thing is certain – they wouldn't change each other for the world. While they're far from alike, it's crystal clear that the bond they have as siblings is pure, full of love and caring because it's how they were raised.

"THE OLDER SIBLING"

Daniel Aguirre Broca

26, The Hague

"THE MIDDLE SIBLING"

Marifer Aguirre Broca

25, Capelle aan den IJssel

"THE YOUNGER SIBLING"

Juan Pablo Aguirre Broca

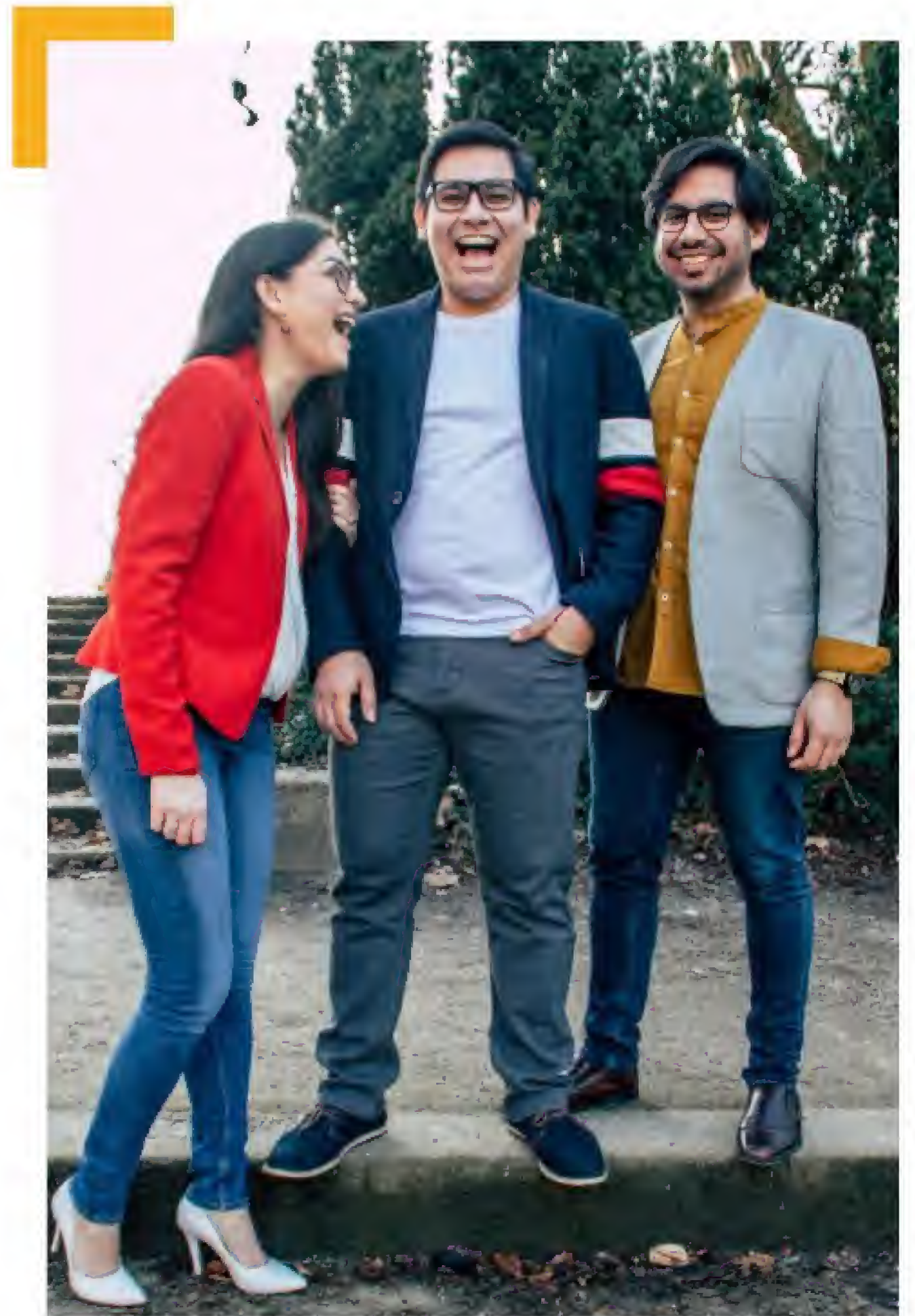
20, Groningen



Their parents decided to move to Aruba in May of 1996, which is where the siblings grew up and the majority of their childhood was spent. Dany and Marifer were born in Mexico and Juan Pablo was born in Aruba. Today, the three are lucky enough to have two nationalities; Mexican and Dutch.

While all three live and study in the Netherlands, the journey they went through, the struggles they faced and the challenges they overcame has not been the same.

In this issue, we feature the three unique stories of siblings who grew up together, live and study in the Netherlands but went through very different things, at very different phases of their lives.



*Chemistry
like no other.*

Writer: Lorenzo Dirksz
Photographer: Jair Frank
Location: The Hague, the Netherlands

COVER STORY ::



DANIEL AGUIRRE BROCA:

someone had
to be the
ARTISTIC sibling!

It was 1992, in Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico, where Daniel Aguirre Broca, or as many people call him Dany, was born. He is the oldest of his siblings, Marifer and Juan Pablo. Just three months ago, Dany completed his master's degree in Design for interaction and is now working as a Consultant Engineer. Some of his hobbies include; making music, drawing, and working with kids. He plays a couple of instruments, including drums and guitar. In his free time, he enjoys playing video games with his friends, while also being creative, which is what he does when for instance; making music.

MOVING OVERSEAS

In 2010, like most people that complete Colegio Arubano and having been lucky enough to have obtained his Dutch passport at an early age, studying abroad was always kind of a given. Dany had an interest in studies that aren't yet available in Aruba. Moving to the Netherlands have always sounded to him like a good place to study as it's located in Europe, which was a great decision as it has given him the opportunity to travel around and get a totally different experience from the one he would have gotten had he chosen to go to the US.



FALLING IN LOVE WITH MUSIC

Ever since he was a kid, his mother would often have classical music, and more specifically, classic rock playing around at home. Dany says that he has always had an interest in that kind of music but hadn't given it a lot of thoughts. It was only until the age of eleven when he received his first CD player and a music compilation called *"That's what you call music"*, which he had listened to until the CD was no longer working, that Dany really fell in love with music. In his pursuit of finding the next best thing to listen to, he had asked his mother to borrow him a couple of CDs. She agreed and decided to lend him some. This is when Dany came across a CD that had lots of drawings on it. After asking his mother one more time whether he was allowed to listen to that particular album, he was ordered not to as the album contained music with expletive language. So the CD was put aside and Dany didn't think about it for many years.

However, when he started Colegio Arubano, he received a new CD player. This is when he decided to sneak into his mother's drawer and grab the CD that contained 'lots of drawings' on it. It was a CD from Green Day, which was named Dookie. Although he was not allowed to listen to it, he took the CD anyway, went to his backyard, and started listening to it. His first reaction was, "Oh shit, I've never listened to music like this before!". He was amused by how energetic the music felt. Yet, it was with one particular song from that album, called "Basket case", where he was drawn to learning how to play the drums and the guitar. So he ran to his mother and told her instantly that he wanted to learn how to play drums. After listening to Dookie over and over again, he has really gotten into Punk Rock – particularly during his time at Colegio Arubano.

At the age of 13, he started taking drum lessons at Cas di Cultura with Mr. Carlos Bislip and, within a year, he had saved enough money to purchase his own drum set. Thus, essentially, during the age of 12-18, Dany was playing drums every single day for at least one to two hours. He eventually formed different bands, which he says, even if it sounded crappy, making music, being creative, and having fun with it was what it was all about.

What had started as a rebellious act of listening to a CD he was not allowed to, turned into a passion for Punk-Rock music, which then led to his love for all kinds of music and instruments. To this day, Dany says that there has not been a single year since he began making music that he has not been creatively involved with music. Whether it was working with a cover band to working with a party band – he has definitely been busy. As a matter of fact, right now he is even involved with an indie folk band with a girl from Hungary. So, fundamentally, music has always been a big part of his life ever since he has started making it. Music has allowed him to meet a lot of people through different events, even when it was a simple get together.



Today, Dany is a drummer in an alternative, indie band led by the Hungarian artist Borka Balogh. The band has recently recorded their first studio album, which launches in summer of 2019. In about two months, they will also be traveling to Liverpool, England for some shows. Furthermore, Dany says that the experience of being in a band should always be, first and foremost, fun. However, fun does not mean not taking it seriously. He hopes to one day be able to live off of music or anything thing creative. It's not that he is not happy with his current job, which is being a Consultant Engineer, but Dany feels the happiest when he's doing something creative, especially when it involves entertaining people.

Besides working as an Engineer Consultant and being a musician, Dany also enjoys working with children. In fact, last year, he's had the opportunity to work with kids at a company called 'My Gym', which is a worldwide fitness center oriented towards children between the ages of 6 weeks to 13 years. Working with children had truly brought him a lot of fulfillment. And for many years, he had thought about turning around his studies to do something like pedagogy. So much, that he's even considered becoming a kindergarten teacher. So in general, he has a broad interest in doing something that involves interacting with people, like children, or something that has to do with either entertainment or arts.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Although Dany loves Aruba, he is not planning on moving back – at least not anytime soon. Instead, he feels like there are more opportunities to branch out in the Netherlands. He says,

“WHENEVER I GO TO ARUBA FOR VACATION, I REALLY DO ENJOY MY TIME THERE. BUT LIVING IN THE NETHERLANDS IS SOMEWHAT EASIER FOR ME TO CONTINUE GROWING, SO TO SPEAK.”

Above all, he Dany enjoys being outside of his comfort zone and having the opportunity to meet new people.



Because of his love for children, Dany would also like to become a father one day. In fact, ever since he was a kid, he has also enjoyed playing with and being around children. To this very day, whenever he sees children, he feels the need to smile, he says, *“I have to smile, make faces, talk, and stuff!”*.

When it comes to love, Dany reminisces his last relationship, which was one that lasted for a few years, he says,

“IT WAS AN AWESOME RELATIONSHIP, BUT IT ENDED FOR SOME REASON. I LOOK BACK TO IT VERY FONDLY, AND IT HAS ALREADY BEEN A COUPLE OF YEARS SINCE IT ENDED”.

However, since he's only started working five weeks ago, he's been wanting to get his social life back on track. So really, establishing a good balance between work, music, and friends is his priority right now. Dany jokes,

“I AM NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR LOVE AT THE MOMENT, BUT I AM ACTIVELY HOPING. I AM ALSO NOT RUSHING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW, BUT IT WOULD BE NICE TO FIND SOMEONE.”



MARIA FERNANDA AGUIRRE BROCA:

OVERCOMING
FAMILY
TRADITION IN
TODAY'S
**MODERN
WORLD.**

Today's world brings many challenges for young couples, but even more for those who come from very different cultures and countries. *Where do we live? Should we move in? Where should we grow a family? When is it the right time to get married?* Questions like these wandered through Marifer's mind at the age of just nineteen, which is when she first met her Fiancé, Matisse.

Growing up in a very caring and loving traditional Mexican Catholic family often-times means that life has to follow a certain path. When it comes to Marifer, she always dreamt of the perfect Church wedding and her parents had high expectations for how her big wedding day should be. However, as Marifer got older and circumstances in her life changed, so did her 'fairy tale wedding' wishes.

In this interview, Marifer opens up about the journey of how she met her Fiancé, Matisse, the struggle they face as a young couple wanting to live together and challenging their families vision on how their wedding day should be done.

Just like most students wanting to pursue a higher education, Marifer moved to the Netherlands at the age of eighteen to pursue a degree in International Relations, that she graduated from, in Leiden. Today, she's living with her Fiancé in a city just outside of Rotterdam, with their two cats and has been employed for the past two years.

"I CHOSE LEIDEN BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS HEARD IT'S A VERY GOOD SCHOOL. I ALSO WANTED TO BE CLOSE TO MY BIG BROTHER."

Marifer shared that the Netherlands was not her first choice until her parents convinced her to visit her older brother, Daniel, *"I came here for vacation and didn't want to go back!"* Marifer laughs, *"My parents were happy, as it meant they would also save money."* During her first year, she lived with her big brother and also when she started to actively speak with Matisse.

"I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR OVER 10 YEARS, HE USED TO BE MY BROTHER'S VERY GOOD FRIEND."



Marifer describes the journey of getting engaged to Matisse as, *"Funny and cliché,"* she laughs. Matisse would always visit their house in Aruba to hang out with her big brother, but they were not friends and would barely even speak, *"We've known each other for so long - he even played in a band at my Quinceañera."* Today, they laugh at pictures they have from each other in the past, as they never thought they'd end up engaged almost ten years later.

- **HOW DID YOU START SPEAKING WITH MATISSE?**

"It wasn't until he helped me and Dany move in together. Ikea makes you bond with people! We spent a lot of time together and I thought, hey, he's actually very nice."

- **WHEN DID YOU START DATING?**

"I told my mother about him helping us. I guess she could tell I had a crush on him, so she suggested I could invite Matisse to dinner as a thank you for helping me with moving. I was like, mom, that's very specific...but okay," she laughs.

- **"MY FATHER AND BROTHER CRASHED OUR 'FIRST DATE,' BUT MY DAD WAS A GOOD WING MAN."**

After a year of seriously dating Matisse, Marifer soon realized that she was too different compared to her older brother to live with, *"We have very different lifestyles and we started to almost hate each other more than we liked being siblings."* Although both Marifer's parents were completely sold on their daughter dating Matisse, they did not take the news of them wanting to move in together lightly, *"Moving out improved the situation with my brother and Matisse, but not with my parents."* Growing up as a catholic girl meant that you have to first get married, and then move in together, however, she decided to just do it. The situation caused her father to make it very clear that they were not allowed to live together.

- **HOW DID YOU END UP LIVING TOGETHER ANYWAY?**

"I'm used to the rule that if I live under my parents' roof, it's their roof. However, I explained to my parents that I did not live under their roof anymore and that we were not asking for permission. It's something Matisse and I wanted to do and were ready for."

- **HOW DID YOU END UP CONVINCING YOUR PARENTS?**

"I was honest with them. I think, Matisse also gave me the courage to speak up to my parents since he knows how they can be. I told my parents I know a lot of people who keep things from their parents out of fear and I did not want to be that kind of daughter to my parents; my parents know everything."



- **HOW DID MATISSE GIVE YOU THE COURAGE?**

"He knows me from a young age. He made me open my eyes that I'm very much a people pleaser and that there are certain things in life that if I actually wanted, I should go for them. I was intrigued to find out if we could actually live together before getting married."

"MY PARENTS ARE NOW CHILLER WITH MY BROTHERS WHEN THEY MEET SOMEONE, AND I'M LIKE, NO! YOU WERE STRICT WITH ME, BE STRICT WITH MY BROTHERS AS WELL."

- **LIFE WITH MATISSE.**

Marifer shares that her and Matisse are a relatively, *"Old, laid-back and boring couple,"* she laughs. They don't go out dancing or drinking, they rather spent their time going out to eat to a very nice restaurant, or ordering Pizza, watch Netflix and chill at home. They also have two cats who occupy their time and often go out to watch movies together.

- **HER ENGAGEMENT.**

When asked Marifer if she expected to be engaged at twenty-five, she laughed, *"I kind of wanted it, even younger, I think. But now, looking back, I think it happened at the perfect time."* She opens up that, as a child, she always had the idea she would have the perfect catholic wedding and that her life would follow the traditional path. *"But things happened the other way around with Matisse and I,"* she laughs, *"Today, we just want a very personal and intimate wedding and we are not thinking of getting married in a church."*

"MATISSE DIDN'T REALLY SEE THE POINT OF GETTING MARRIED. WE ARE ALREADY TOGETHER, WHY DO WE NEED A PIECE OF PAPER? WHY SPEND MONEY ON A WEDDING CEREMONY?"

- **WHEN DID YOU BEGIN YOUR WEDDING TALKS?**

"I think we started having conversations of getting married after three years of being together."



- **DID YOU EXPECT GETTING PROPOSED WHEN YOU DID?**

"No! I was hoping for it for a long time, but I knew how Matisse felt and I wanted Matisse to be ready on his own to actually ask me."

- **WHEN DID MATISSE PROPOSE?**

"It was during the first December we went back to spend the Holidays in Aruba. Matisse told me he was going to buy me a present for Christmas. It happened on 'Noche Buena,' I was up until three in the morning finishing a customized quest he had invented, which ended with me opening a homemade crafted box, with the engagement ring in it."

WEDDING PLANS.

Matisse and Marifer are currently preparing their wedding and are aiming to get married in Spring of 2020 in either the Netherlands or Belgium, and will probably end up spending their honeymoon in New Zealand. Marifer shares that, in the beginning, a big disappointment to her parents were that the couple doesn't want a church wedding. Matisse is not a religious person and, while Marifer grew up in a very religious family, she no longer considers herself as a faithful catholic. Additionally, her parents would absolutely love a very large wedding ceremony and would invite everyone they know. However, her and her fiancé are aiming for a relatively intimate wedding and are even considering not having plus one's for their guests.

- **IS IT DIFFICULT NOT HAVING YOUR MEXICAN FAMILY THERE?**

"Of course they are more than welcome to come. At first, I would tell everyone to start saving because it will happen eventually. However, realistically speaking, while it can be sad, that's just life when you come from different places. I've come to terms that most of my family can't be there."

- **WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GET MARRIED IN EUROPE?**

"For us, it's more logical to get married here. The Netherlands has become our home, and we can actually plan and control our wedding from here. Here, I know way more people and have friends I consider family. It's important for me to have people who has actually been around us during our relationship at our wedding."

In the near future, they hope to move closer to The Hague to be closer to Matisse's workplace and Marifer would like to have children before she is thirty. About whether or not Marifer sees herself going back to Aruba, she says maybe in the very far future although, for now, she will definitely continue her life journey with Matisse in the Netherlands.

"I'VE SEEN HOW MY PARENTS RAISED MY SIBLINGS AND I. THEY WERE IN THEIR LATE TWENTIES WHEN WE GOT BORN AND THEY WERE ABLE TO ACTUALLY GROW WITH US AND RAISE US; I WOULD ALSO WANT THAT FOR ME AND MY FUTURE CHILDREN."



JUAN PABLO AGUIRRE BROCA:**LIVING LIFE****CONSTANTLY ON****THE MOVE!**

He's the youngest of the three siblings to move to the Netherlands and live completely on his own. While he is six years apart from his older brother, Juan Pablo's personality is far from acting like he's the youngest. From a very young age, Juan Pablo has always liked being involved in the more serious part of life. In Aruba, he used to volunteer in non-profit organizations whenever he got the chance in order to improve the community. Juan Pablo mentions that he's always liked to help people, and has always thought that there are things that can be done in a more just way. He thinks that he has the ability to represent people and bring ideas forward in a neutral way and, therefore, decided to pursue a degree in International Relations and International Organizations, at the University of Groningen.



The last of his siblings to move to the Netherlands, but certainly not the least prepared. Juan Pablo did his research before choosing what education program to pursue; he looked at what he did in his free time while in Aruba,

"I ASKED MYSELF WHAT I WANTED TO DO AND HOW I SAW MYSELF IN THE FUTURE, AND THEN CHOSE A STUDY."

In fact, he moved to Groningen solely based on the program at first and then fell in love with the city, *"I love how Groningen is a city, but still has that little town feeling. You get both the international life and Dutch life here. It's the best of both worlds!"* As one would expect, when he first moved here, he sought to join an organization that didn't just drink and was actively involved in the community. Luckily, he found SIB Groningen; an organization that organizes educational and interactive lectures for anyone interested in attending. Additionally, he's part of a District, and meet every Thursday to hang out.

Three years later, he considers the members in SIB Groningen his closest friends. He later found out that when one joins, they join for life which he is now genuinely happy about. He enjoys that the lectures that SIB organizes are real and honest, especially the Q&A afterward, where everyone gets to interact, share opinions and ideas.

He is the only sibling that enjoyed the perk of living alone with his parents in Aruba, while his older siblings left to study in the Netherlands. When asked him what's something he could notice is different living on his own, he laughed and quickly responded,

"NO CURFEWS! I CAN FILL MY AGENDA AS I WANT. I LIKE BEING BUSY, AND BEING ON THE MOVE."



- **WHAT HAS BEEN DIFFERENT LIVING ON YOUR OWN?**

"Being responsible for your own budget. So, if I choose to eat out a lot it's delicious. But, then at the end of the month, I'm a little tight for money. It happened to me before, but I do not regret it; I enjoyed all of the food!"

- **HAS YOUR FAMILY ALWAYS BEEN SO SUPPORTIVE?**

"Yes, they've always been very supportive. I think it has to do with coming from Latin-America; everything we do gets celebrated. I think that's also why I have the need for approval because my family always knows everything. We're very communicative and supportive."

- **DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE MORE PRESSURE BEING THE YOUNGEST?**

"It's actually the other way around!" Juan Pablo laughs, "I think they forgot they had a third son," Juan Pablo says playfully. "I think I did feel the pressure when both my siblings went to study abroad. I was with my parents alone for five years; so I had to do more work around the house."

"SOMEHOW MY SIBLING AND I WERE LUCKY; TO GET THE KIND OF PARENTS THAT ALWAYS HAVE OUR BACK. I'M VERY HAPPY ABOUT THAT."

As close and pure of love Juan Pablo is with his siblings, he shares that there are some differences one being that he is the only sibling that was born in Aruba. Juan Pablo recalls a moment during his childhood, around the age of five, where he randomly asked his parents why they speak Spanish and not Papiamentu with each other. While he doesn't remember this moment now, he thinks he wondered a lot about it when little. Today, something he wished he experienced more of was Mexico; where his family is from.

As for the differences in personality with his siblings...with Daniel, he mentioned that he is the goofy one, "I know whenever I am with him I will laugh. He never judges anyone, ever. He reminds me to be myself and to just be genuinely nice." However, Juan Pablo admits that he does not see himself living with his older brother, due to Daniel being a lot more laid back than Juan Pablo is.

"I DON'T HAVE MUSICAL TALENT LIKE MY BROTHER. I'M MORE DIPLOMATIC. BUT, WE DO HAVE SIMILAR HOBBIES."

As for her only sister, Marifer, Juan Pablo calls her a role model, "She's very stubborn, you could say. But she is also very smart; both academically and professionally. She is someone that when she wants something, she fights for it." Still, Juan Pablo admits that Marifer's stubbornness can get in the way.

"IT'S NOT SOMETHING NEGATIVE. BUT, SHE HAS A FIANCEE NOW AND HER LIFE HAS CHANGED. SHE WILL ALWAYS BE MY SISTER, BUT YOU CAN SAY SHE IS A MRS. NOW. THINGS CHANGE."

Although things change and it's difficult, they try to see each other between once and twice a month. And, when they do get together, everything is as if it's the same; they always laugh and have a good time. Where does Juan Pablo fit in between her siblings? "In the middle," he laughs, "I can be stubborn, but I can also be free-spirited. It depends who I'm with."

"I'M A PERSON THAT GETS VERY NERVOUS EASILY, AND I CAN BE QUITE INSECURE OF MYSELF."

While Juan Pablo seems to be very goal oriented and is determined to succeed in his professional life, he admitted that there are also personal goals he would like to achieve, "To let loose a little, to act without thinking so much about needing the approval of a lot of people." It's something very personal of him, that he has been working on for the past two years and mentioned it's something he would like to continue to improve and develop on.



- **WHERE DO YOU THINK YOUR INSECURITY COMES FROM?**

"I never could identify it. My parents always pointed out that I need to just be more confident. A lot of my friends know me as someone that's loud and ready to talk, but I've always asked three people for their opinions before making a decision on my own."

- **HAS THIS CAUSED ANY DISADVANTAGES FOR YOU??**

"I made decisions by the opinions of others and not by trusting my gut. Sometimes, I think I could've made better decisions where things could've gone better. Especially in group projects, somehow I always ended up doing all of the work," he laughs.



Juan Pablo doesn't see himself going back to Aruba in the near future. However, a long term goal of his is to grow a family in Aruba someday. When asked him about his current love life, he laughs, *"Since the beginning of time, I have been single. Whenever I liked someone, they either had a boyfriend or were in the process of getting a boyfriend. But I am looking!"* He mentioned that he is someone that is romantic and traditional, that he would like to meet someone in person.

Juan Pablo is currently finalizing the third year of his bachelor program. In August, he will be starting his internship in Washington D.C, at the office of the Minister Plenipotentiary of Aruba with Jocelyne Croes. As for one of his dreams in life?

"TO FINANCIALLY GET TO A POINT WHERE I CAN BE AND LIVE COMFORTABLY, WITHOUT TOO MUCH WORRY."







SUN
24
MAR

Mainstreet

The Last Lap

Meheehle
Caya Pa
Caya Ha

Aruba Dag
The Afterparty

VILLA
THALIA

CLUB

JEOM

BIG MISTERY ACT
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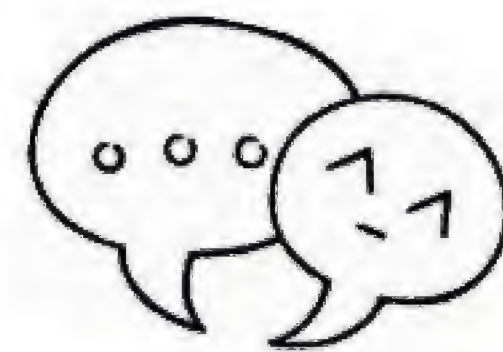
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RICHER ✦ KASH ✦ AYRTON
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BEYOND TINDER.





It is very likely that you, at some point, have used a dating app already. Unless you are underage or have been living under a rock with no internet during the past few years. These apps are quickly becoming the way to meet our potential matches, giving us the convenience of selecting prospective love interests from the comfort of our home. In this article, you'll find a list of dating apps that go beyond the most popular dating apps like Tinder, Grindr, Bumble and Hinge.

BADOO.

This is a dating / social connection app with over 300 million users worldwide. The app is popular among the age group of 18 to 25, especially in the Netherlands. When you first sign up, you are asked if you want to meet new people to date, chat or make new friends. Users then match with others; they upload photos and videos share their interests and see if they have friends in common. This app has a variety of safety features built in to guarantee that who you are talking to really is who they show in their profile picture. These features help users feel safe while avoiding catfishing.

HAPPN.

This is a location-based dating application with over 50million users around the world. It's also a popular app among those under 30 in the Netherlands. Unlike other dating apps, Happn shows you people who you have crossed paths with within your day. If you come across someone in the app that you are interested in, you can like them without them being notified. If they have liked you as well, you can start a conversation with one another. One thing that makes Happn so popular is that it guarantees you will see people who have a similar interest. For obvious reasons, this app works the best in bigger cities and is much less effective in smaller towns.

BUMBLE.

This app works similarly to Tinder but puts women in control. This app lets women take the first step by only letting them send the first message. When it's a match between two men or women either one can start the conversation first. A unique feature that Bumble offers is that they have Bubble BFF, which focuses on building friendships, and Bumble Bizz, which focuses on building professional contacts. This app goes beyond dating and focuses on social connections in all forms.

HER.

This is an international dating app that focuses on the lesbian/queer market with functions just like Tinder. The only difference is that it focuses on letting girls/ ladies meet each other and hopefully find their next love interest. But it also goes beyond that as the app provides community groups and even hosts live events around the world to allow people to meet each other and build connections.

PAIQ.

PAIQ is a Dutch dating app with a unique feature. This dating app forces you to have a conversation with someone on the app for a couple of minutes before showing you their complete profile picture. This app is different from most others as there is no endless swiping involved. The app instead shows you matches based on the preferences you stated when signing up. While this is a unique way of going about it and making the user focus on building a connection over physical attraction. It can happen that you match with someone who isn't necessarily your type at first, but you might surprise yourself and date them anyway.

ONCE.

Once is another international dating app that has very different ways of looking at things. With most apps trying to give you huge quantities of people to swipe through and match with, Once focuses on slowing you down and making you really evaluate someone's qualities instead of their looks. Unlike most dating apps, Once only shows you one potential match per day and allows you to take the day to browse their profile and decide if you like them or not. This app has a clear focus on quality, not quantity. With so many dating apps out there, it's hard to pick which one is best for you. But this list is meant to help you get a clear picture of what you'll get from each one. Now get on one and good luck in finding your next love interest.



Writer: Aishya Sichtman
Photographer: Jair Frank

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SINGLE FEMALE

ESMARIE

Martis.



- Birthdate: 21 August, 1993 • Height: 1.52 m •
- Education: Pedagogy •
- University: Fontys University of Applied Science •
- City: Rotterdam, Netherlands •

- Esmarie's favorite artist is Luis Fonsi;
- She considers herself a dog person;
- Esmarie's Favorite movie is *'Bon Bini Holland'*;
- She considers her favorite holiday to be Christmas, *"It is the most wonderful time of the year!"*
- The three things Esmarie can't live without are her family & friends, her iPhone, and kiddos;
- If Esmarie's life was a song, the title would be *'leef'* because it's about living in the moment;
- If she had the chance to time travel to the future or past and change something, she wouldn't do either because she is a person who likes to live in the present;
- If she was stuck on an island, and could only pick one food to eat forever without getting tired of it, Esmarie would choose *'Nasi Goreng'*;
- The most embarrassing thing she has done was going to greet someone who turned out to be someone else!;
- If Esmarie had to choose between living without a phone or internet she would rather shave her head instead of living without either;
- The person that inspires her is her mom; she's a strong and independent woman who has worked hard to accomplish her dreams. But being abroad and away from her actual family, her closest friends are also people who inspire Esmarie to be and do better. Without forgetting her job, Esmarie loves what she does and does it with the most passion;
- If Esmarie could describe herself in three words, they would be, *"caring, believer, and a go-getter!"*;
- Esmarie describes her soulmate, *"someone who is focused, motivated, humble but also handsome."*

"Keep smiling, because life is a beautiful thing and there is so much to smile about."



- Birthdate: 8 November, 1995 • Height: 1.89 m •
- Education: International Business and Languages •
- University: Hogeschool Rotterdam •
- City: Rotterdam, Netherlands •

- He has a lot of favourite artists, but the ones that came to his mind when asked were Rihanna, Cardi B, Anuel AA, Karol GC, and CNCO;
- Christopher considers himself as a dog person;
- His favorite celebration time is Carnaval in Aruba;
- If Christopher's life was a song the title would be, *"Living my best life"*;
- If he had the chance to time travel, he would go to the past to warn himself to be careful with the decisions he was about to make;
- If Christopher was stuck on an island and could only eat one type of food forever without getting tired of it, he would choose pizza, *"Of course!"*;
- Christopher has done a lot of embarrassing things and most of them were while he was a little drunk;
- Christopher says that his grandmother and mother is inspiring him right now;
- Three words that describe Christopher are, *"Outgoing, open-minded and ambitious."*;
- Christopher's message to his teenage self is, *"To be careful with all the decisions that you will make and take chances without thinking a lot."*;
- Something that Christopher always wanted to do, but is too scared to try is skydiving;
- Christopher's ideal soulmate is someone similar to caring, loyal, honest, communicative, down to earth, open minded, ambitious, motivated and outgoing;
- There is practically nothing that people don't know about Christopher because he describes himself as an open book.

“Don’t give up in life keep on fighting for your goals and dreams.”



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SINGLE MALE

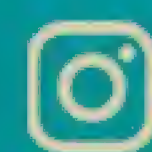
CHRISTOPHER

Koolman.



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